



Ninety-Seventh Legislature - First Session - 2001
Introducer's Statement of Intent
LB 438

Chairperson: Senator Merton L. Dierks
Committee: Agriculture
Date of Hearing: February 6, 2001

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB 438 is brought at the recommendation of the Department of Agriculture to reorient the role and authorities of the Department and its Bureau of Animal Industry in livestock disease management. The bill specifically expands the authorities of the Department to engage in activities that are proactive and preventative in nature, specifically in new disease surveillance authorities and in the establishment of a voluntary herd health registry program to enable producers to earn certification of meeting disease best management practices. The bill also authorizes the Department to develop an emergency response plan in order to coordinate and mobilize resources to contain new dangerous diseases that might be detected. The Department's expanded authorities under the bill would be conducted in cooperation and consultation with animal health advisory committees established for the various livestock species.

Apart from the primary substantive changes in the bill, LB 438 contains a number of miscellaneous updates to the livestock disease management statutes. These include:

- * clarification of livestock disease reporting rules under section 54-742. The proposed changes would enable the Department to focus disease reporting protocols to give greater emphasis to those diseases that pose the greatest livestock health risk and potential for economic harm to the industry
- * increases livestock carcass weight limitation that may be disposed of through composting from 300 lbs. to 600 lbs.
- * exempts the transport of dead animals off premises to a veterinary clinic or diagnostic facility from the prohibition to off-premises removal of dead animals and exempts transport of diseased animals to a clinic or diagnostic facility from a requirement to obtain a permit for the movement of diseased animals.

Principal Introducer:

Senator Merton L. Dierks